Guidelines for Community Radio Stations

1273. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

whether it is fact that his Ministry proposed that the community radio stations be allowed to generate their own revenue through advertisements and sponsored programmes;

whether it is also fact that the Government are contradicting this proposal and send the same to the Group of Ministers to study the whole thing; and

the changes proposed by the Ministry in the guidelines for Community Radio Stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration by a Group of Ministers.

Neglect of entertainment

†1274. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that basic entertainment has been almost nil despite more than hundred channels for broadcasting through satellite T.V competitiveness in advertising, sports casting and increase in number of unrealistic serials for common man;

if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

the arrangements being made to provide basic entertainment to the viewers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) There are more than 200 TV Channels available over the Indian skies. In respect of private TV channels the Government does not have a role to play in their programming content, except for insisting on adherence to the Programme and Advertisement Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995. Prasar Bharati, the public service broadcaster, through Doordarshan

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.